Docket No. 0121-JR

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1 through 10 and insert new claims 11 through 14 as follows. A version of only the rewritten claims, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the claims, is contained on separate page(s) attached hereto as Appendix A.

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1. (Amended) A container having a recess for containing matter, the container comprising:

a wall structure formed of a porous material and having inner and outer surfaces, a base wall, a continuous side-wall upstanding therefrom, and a peripheral rim extending outwardly of the side-wall, the base wall and side-wall delineating the recess of the container;

a fluid barrier film layer at each of the inner and outer surfaces of the wall structure, each of the fluid barrier film layers being formed of a fluid-impermeable material;

an interior space defined within at least a portion of the wall structure between the fluid barrier film layers;

means for enabling fluid flow from the recess of the container into the interior space through the fluid barrier film layer at the inner surface of the wall structure;

means for sealing the interior space from a remaining portion of the wall structure in a fluid tight manner between the fluid barrier film layers and across the thickness of the

wall structure, the interior space being at least partially filled by the porous material from which the wall structure is made;

wherein a fluid within the recess is able to flow through the fluid flow enabling means and into the interior space where the fluid is retained and prevented from migrating into the remaining portion of the wall structure.

2. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the porous material from which the wall structure is made has an open cell structure.

3. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the interior space is limited to the base wall of the wall structure.

4. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the fluid flow enabling means comprises perforations through the fluid barrier film layer at the inner surface of the wall structure.

5. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the porous material is an absorbent material.

6. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the sealing means is in the peripheral rim of the wall structure.

7. (Amended) A container according to claim 6, further comprising an impervious gas barrier film sealed to the peripheral rim of the wall structure to define a gas-tight closure for the recess of the container.

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8. (Amended) A container according to claim 7, wherein the gas barrier film is sealed to the peripheral rim with a seal that is coterminous with the sealing means.

9. (Amended) A container according to claim 8, wherein the seal of the gas barrier film and the sealing means are integral and unitarily formed and comprise an ultrasonic weld.

10. (Amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein the interior space is completely filled by the porous material from which the wall structure is made.

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11. (New) A container according to claim 1, further comprising an impervious gas barrier film sealed to the peripheral rim of the wall structure to define a gas-tight closure

for the recess of the container.

12. (New) A container having a recess for containing matter, the container comprising:

a wall structure formed of a liquid-absorbent porous material and having inner and outer surfaces, a base wall, a continuous side-wall upstanding therefrom, and a peripheral rim extending outwardly of the side-wall, the base wall and side-wall delineating the recess of the container;

a fluid barrier film layer at each of the inner and outer surfaces of the wall structure, each of the fluid barrier film layers being formed of a fluid-impermeable material;

an interior space defined within the base wall between the fluid barrier film layers, the interior space being at least partially filled by the porous material from which the wall structure is made;

perforations through the fluid barrier film layer at the inner surface of the wall structure to enable fluid flow from the recess of the container into the interior space;

a seal that separates the interior space from a remaining portion of the wall structure in a fluid tight manner, the seal being defined by a portion of one of the fluid barrier film layers that extends across the thickness of the wall structure;

wherein a fluid within the recess is able to flow through the fluid flow enabling

means and into the interior space where the fluid is retained and prevented from migrating into the remaining portion of the wall structure.

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13. (New) A container according to claim 12, wherein the seal is defined by a portion of the fluid barrier film layer at the outer surface of the wall structure.

14. (New) A container according to claim 12, further comprising an impervious gas barrier film sealed to the peripheral rim of the wall structure to define a gas-tight closure for the recess of the container.